

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00565 260726Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 /081 W
-----260740Z 047593 /10

R 251502Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4570
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 565

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: EBAN FORMALLY ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY

1. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ABBA EBAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN TEL AVIV JAN 24 TO ANNOUNCE HIS CANDIDACY OFFICIALLY FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LABOR PARTY'S ELECTION LIST. THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY POLITICAL REPORTERS FROM THE DAILY PRESS BUT DID NOT RESULT IN EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE. MOST PAPERS DID NOT CONSIDER IT FRONTPAGE NEWS BUT RAN SHORT STORIES IN THEIR ELECTION COLUMNS.

2. IN SPEAKING TO REPORTERS EBAN SAID THAT HE WAS NEITHER OPTIMISTIC NOR PESSIMISTIC BUT REALISTIC. HE SAID HE WAS CONTINUING HIS CONSULTATIONS MAONG LABOR PARTY COLLEAGUES. HE ALSO PRESENTED HIS VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF INTERNAL PROBLEMS. HE STRESSED THEIMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE ALIGNMENT BETWEEN THE LABOR PARTY AND MAPAM.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD SUPPORT RABIN OR PERES IF HIS OWN CANDIDACY WERE UNSUCCESSFUL, EBAN SAID "IN 1974 I FELT THAT MR. SHIMON PERES HAD A GREATER CHANCE OF CREATING A UNITED AND HARMONIOUS TEAM, AND I'VE NEVER CHANGED MY VIEW SINCE THEN." HOWEVER, ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, AND PARTICULARLY ON THE TERRITORIES, THE VIEWS HE EXPRESSED WERE CLOSER TO

THOSE OF RABIN. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE LABOR PARTY PLATFORM'S EXPRESSION OF READINESS FOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS AND WHETHER THIS SHOULD APPLY TO AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ON THE WEST BANK IN EXCHANGE FOR A PARTIAL SOLUTION WITH JORDAN, EBAN SAID: "I SUPPORTED THE TWO AGREEMENTS WITH EGYPT AND THE ONE AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA WHICH WERE BASED ON A LIMITED TERRITORIAL CONCESSION IN RETURN FOR WHAT OUR GOVERNMENT THOUGHT WAS A REASONABLE STRENGTHENING OF STABILITY AND A CERTAIN MOVING AWAY FROM THE CONCEPT OF WAR. THAT WAS THE REASONING BEHIND THE REUNCIATION OF KUNEITRA, OF SUEZ AND THE STRIP OF TERRITORY EAST OF THE SUEZ CANAL. I WOULD NOT RULE OUT A SIMILAR CONCEPT IN AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN."

4. COMMENT: EBAN CLEARLY HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING MOST OBSERVERS THAT HIS CANDIDACY IS SERIOUS. MANY BELIEVE HE HAS MADE A DEAL WITH PERES AND THAT HIS CANDIDACY IS INTENDED TO DRAW VOTES FROM RABIN, BECAUSE THEIR POSITIONS ARE CLOSER. IN FACT, A GROUP OF RABIN'S SUPPORTERS TRIED TO DISSUADE EBAN FROM TAKING THIS STEP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Subject: EBAN FORMALLY ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY
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